

COPS has been one of the most cost-effective law enforcement programs in our nation's history resulting in dramatic declines in both crime and violent crime rates.

It is good common sense that the new Democratic Congress has sought to restore funding to this successful program. It is good for the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota; good for the state of Minnesota; and good for America.

I am proud to have voted to make our streets safer by supporting the COPS Improvement Act of 2007.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH AND SANDRA MORROW FOR THEIR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUNITY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincerity that I take this time to honor Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Sandra Morrow of Schererville, Indiana. On Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Joe and Sandy will be honored by the Calumet Council, Boy Scouts of America for their many years of service and many contributions to their community. The Calumet Council will be honoring Joe and Sandra at the 2007 Distinguished Citizens Dinner, which will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Joseph Morrow, originally from Huntington, Indiana, has always proven himself to be a dedicated member of the Northwest Indiana community. From a very young age, Joe realized the need for community participation and joined the Boy Scouts, where he would eventually attain the rank of Life Scout. After graduating from Huntington High School in 1949, Joe continued his commitment to his community and country as he enlisted and served in the United States Air Force from 1950–1954. From there, Joe went on to further his education and decided to pursue a career in the legal profession. Upon graduating from law school in 1958, Joe entered the practice of law. From there, the law firm of Schroer, Eichhorn, and Morrow emerged, where Joe remained until 1979. At that time, Joe left the firm and was named Chairman of Mercantile National Bank of Indiana, First National Bank of Illinois, and Home State Bank of Crystal Lake, Illinois, as well as President of the Lake Commercial Group.

Throughout the years, Joe has been a constant fixture in his community. He serves or has served in various capacities on the boards for many organizations, including: Indiana Bond Bank, Hoosier Boys Town, Northern Indiana Arts Association, Trade Winds Rehabilitation Center, Calumet Council—Boy Scouts of America, Indiana University Northwest-Chancellor's Advisory Board, Indiana University-Purdue University Calumet Region Campus Advisory Board, Purdue University Calumet-Chancellor's Council, Northwest Indiana Urban League, Gary Accord, Campaign America, Hammond Bar Association, Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Munster Medical Research Foundation, Indiana Univer-

sity Foundation, Indiana University Varsity Club, First National Bank of Illinois, Home State Bank, and the Audubon Country Club Foundation.

Sandra (Murray) Morrow, a native of Hammond, Indiana, has always shared the same compassion and willingness to serve her community. As a child, Sandy was always involved in community-oriented activities, such as the Brownies and Girl Scouts, and she attended Camp Paxton for summer camp. Upon her graduation from Hammond High School, Sandy went on to Indiana University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in speech and hearing therapy. In 1956, she and Joe were married, and she continued to teach, traveling between Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Hammond.

Sandy's lifelong commitment to her community is an inspiring testament to her character. Sandy, like her husband, has served in many capacities with many organizations in the Northwest Indiana community, including: President of the Service League of Hammond, the Women's Board of the Bethany Home for Girls, the Women's Board of Hoosier Boys' Town, and she served on the boards for the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Beta Gamma Upsilon Sorority, Audubon Country Club, and the South Shore Arts Board.

While they remain truly committed to the Northwest Indiana community, Joe and Sandy's greatest enjoyment is the time spent with their beautiful family. The couple has one son, Chris, and one daughter, Gale Morrow Crabtree, as well as four adoring grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Sandra Morrow as they are honored for their service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of countless individuals. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF THE KAPLEN FAMILY SENIOR RESIDENCE IN RIVER VALE, NEW JERSEY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the opening of the latest addition to the Bergen County Jewish Home Family, the Kaplen Family Senior Residence in River Vale, New Jersey. The local Jewish community has worked hard to plan and prepare for this home for more than a decade, and its doors are being opened to great exuberance.

Assisted living homes have become a very popular option for senior living. More and more families are working to care for young children and aging parents simultaneously. Assisted living facilities offer a loving and supportive environment for seniors. Families can rest easy that their parents are being cared for in a homestyle environment. And, seniors can have the independence they desire, knowing

all the while they have access to quality medical and life services that they may need.

What sets this assisted living home apart from others is that it is the first to offer a kosher environment. I commend Bill and Maggie Kaplen and the Kaplen Foundation for taking the initiative to meet this community need and to make this dream a reality.

I've worked for years with the Jewish Home community in Bergen County. With each visit to the Jewish Home in Rockleigh, I have encountered friendly, thoughtful staff and happy, content residents. I am certain that this newest facility will offer the same caring environment and neighborly feel.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAVID HEARN

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, David Hearn, who will retire this month after almost 46 years as the organist for St. Paul's Lutheran Church here in the District of Columbia.

For more than four decades, Mr. Hearn has graced the congregation of St. Paul's and this city with classical and religious music including hymns, spirituals, and music from other lands.

Mr. Hearn's love of church music was influenced early by his mother, a singer and choir director, as well as his father who had a fine tenor voice. He earned a music degree from Ashland University in Ohio and a graduate degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He also completed summer courses at Oberlin College and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Ohio.

After a stint in the Army, Mr. Hearn came to the Washington area when offered a teaching contract in the Montgomery County school system. While there, he taught in all grades and eventually became Choral Director and Head of the Music Department at Wheaton High School. Under his direction, the choir performed in many local venues, including St. Paul's. They also traveled widely and were honored to sing a Sunday morning service at Old North Church in Boston during the Bicentennial year celebrations. The Madrigal Singers also sang in Montreal, Boston, and Washington Cathedral.

When Mr. Hearn became Music Director at St. Paul's on a snowy Sunday morning many years ago, he played a small Hammond organ in the chancel of the church. As the church grew and prospered, Mr. Hearn led the effort by the church to acquire the impressive Shantz pipe organ that today attracts prominent organists from around the country for recitals.

In addition to directing the St. Paul's choir and participating in services for decades, Mr. Hearn has hosted innumerable choirs and solo artists at St. Paul's for performances that have touched the lives of countless District residents. He has placed a special emphasis on developing the talents of gifted young singers and musicians and providing them with an opportunity to perform for appreciative audiences.

Mr. Hearn has spent decades enriching the cultural and religious life of District residents.

I am pleased to join the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in recognizing Mr. Hearn's service to his church and contributions to our community as he begins a well deserved retirement.

# INTRODUCING THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2007

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2007, legislation to provide universal health coverage to our Nation's children.

In February, I was appalled when the Washington Post reported that 12-year-old Deamonte Driver passed away because his mother could not afford a basic dental procedure. An untreated infection in Deamonte's molar had spread to his brain. By the time he was brought to an emergency room, no amount of money could save him.

Deamonte Driver did not have to die. He would be still alive today if his mother had been insured, if more dentists accepted Medicaid, or if his family had not lost their Medicaid coverage.

This tragic story speaks to the shortcomings of our fragmented health care system. Millions of children are covered by their parents' health insurance plans. Medicaid and SCHIP provide care to millions of kids in families that meet their eligibility standards. Unfortunately, both programs have unnecessarily complex enrollment and review processes. Nearly 9 million children slip through the cracks of this incomplete system and go without health insurance each year.

Enough is enough. The wealthiest nation in the world can and should guarantee quality health care to all of our children. With insurance costs skyrocketing and employers dropping care, an overwhelming majority of Americans agrees. According to a February 2007 New York Times/CBS News poll, 84 percent favor expanding public programs to cover all uninsured children. If that's not a mandate for Congressional action, I don't know what is.

Rather than reinvent the wheel to provide care to our children, we should build on what works in our health care system. When Congress created Medicare more than 40 years ago, our Nation's seniors were more likely to be living in poverty than any other age group. Most senior citizens were unable to afford needed medical services and unable to find health insurance in the private market even if they could afford it. Today, as a result of Medicare's success, seniors are much less likely to be shackled by the bonds of poverty or to go without needed health care.

Now it is our Nation's children who are most likely to be poor. Kids in America are nearly twice as vulnerable to poverty as adults. This travesty is not only morally reprehensible; it also has grave consequences for the future of our country. Our future rests on our ability to provide our children with the basic conditions to thrive and become healthy, educated, and productive adults.

Poor children are often malnourished and have difficulty succeeding in school. Untreated

illnesses only worsen their chance for success. Providing these children with guaranteed health care would help realize their potential as individuals and our potential as a Nation.

The MediKids Health Insurance Act would create a new Federal health insurance program for children called MediKids. Modeled after Medicare, MediKids would provide comprehensive benefits appropriate to children, simplified cost sharing, prescription drug coverage and mental health parity.

Every child in America would be automatically enrolled in MediKids at birth and maintain that eligibility until age 23. Parents would retain the choice to enroll their kids in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically fills in the gap.

MediKids doesn't have complicated enrollment and eligibility hoops. Instead, it assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children.

I can think of no better use of Congress' time—or our Nation's money—than to enact MediKids and provide health insurance to every child. Providing a simple, stable, and flexible health insurance option will afford millions of parents the peace of mind of knowing that their children will be cared for when they are sick. Our Nation's priorities should be centered on creating a bright future for our children and MediKids helps to achieve this goal.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the many endorsing organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Defense Fund to enact the MediKids Health Insurance Act.

Below is a summary of MediKids that provides additional details.

## MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2007 BILL SUMMARY

The MediKids Health Insurance Act provides health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income level by 2014. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are improved and targeted toward children.

MediKids is the ultimate safety net, with maximum simplicity, stability, and flexibility for families. Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically picks up the children's health insurance. MediKids follows children across State lines when families move, and fills the gaps when families climbing out of poverty become ineligible for means-tested programs.

### ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

Every child born after December 31, 2008 is automatically enrolled in MediKids. Older children are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to the U.S. are enrolled when they receive their immigration cards. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with a MediKids insurance card, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23. There are no re-determination hoops to jump through because MediKids is not means tested.

### BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on the Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, with simplified cost sharing mechanisms and com-

prehensive prescription drug coverage. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

### PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

MediKids assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children. Families below 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or cost sharing. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay reduced premiums and cost sharing. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium equal to one-fourth of the average annual cost per child. Premiums are collected at the time of income tax filing. Premiums are not assessed during periods of equivalent alternative coverage. Families will never pay more than 5 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for premiums.

Cost sharing is similar to the largest plans available to Members of Congress. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well childcare for any children. A refundable tax credit is provided for cost sharing above 5 percent of AGI.

### FINANCING

Initial funding to be determined by Congress. In future years, the Secretary of the Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the numbers of enrollees grows.

### STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKids. States can choose to maintain these programs. To the extent that the States save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids, States are required to maintain current funding levels in other programs and services directed toward the Medicaid population. This can include expanding eligibility or offering additional services. For example, States could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality initiatives in nursing homes.

### PHASE-IN

MediKids is phased-in over a 5-year period according to the following schedule: Year 1 = the child has not attained age 6; Year 2 = the child has not attained age 11; Year 3 = the child has not attained age 16; Year 4 = the child has not attained age 21; Year 5 = the child has not attained age 23.

### SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Medical Student Association; Children's Defense Fund; Consumers Union; Families USA; March of Dimes; National Association of Children's Hospitals; National Association of Community Health Centers; National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems; National Health Law Program; and NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber during the early morning hours of Friday, May 11, 2007, and was therefore unable to record my vote on three postponed votes that were taken in the Committee of the Whole House on the State